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MEMBER CATHOLIC PRESS ASSOCIATION

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"I would make any sacrifice, even to the parting of my ring, bectorial cross and soutane, in order to support a Catholic newspaper."—Pope Pius X.

Editorials

CATHOLIC EVIDENCE NEED

To those interested in the better understanding of Catholic truth and doctrine, the notice of the second annual convention of the National Conference of Catholic Evidence Guilds to be held in Washington October 7 and 8, is very significant.

Most of the world expect that Catholics should be able to state clearly and simply what it is that the Church teaches on those points where she is most often misrepresented and where she is most obvious to plausible objection. We should not forget that Protestants object oftentimes not to any doctrine as taught by the Church, but to the caricature which passes current for the reality in the world at large.

A word to inquiring non-Catholics may remove many misconceptions. But this demands knowledge. If a Catholic has never been taught the difference between absolute and relative worship, how can he meet successfully the Protestant objection to the adoration of the Cross? If he has never learned what Indulgence really means and the true significance of an Indulgence of three hundred days or seven years, how can he answer the difficulties that may be urged against them? If he does not know the marriage laws of the Church, how can he set a non-Catholic right on this most important subject? We should be able to answer the chief objections, doctrinal and historical, against the Church in which we were baptized and confirmed. Ignorance in this case is inexcusable.

For the Catechism tells us that a person sins against Faith by not trying to know what God has taught, and we fail to try to know what God has taught by neglecting to learn the Christian doctrine.

Our neglect in this matter causes us to be dumb when we should speak. The honor of the Church is involved and we have nothing to say. We have the means to dispel ignorance and prejudice by explaining and defending the doctrines of the Church and repelling false charges against her, and we give our time to reading idle chatter or worse. It is not too much to say here that parents are not inconsequential factors in the promotion of ignorance of Catholic doctrine. Insistent on the acquisition of secular knowledge, they are lukewarm in the necessity of seeking first the Kingdom of God and His Justice. If they would even devote a little time to a careful reading of their Catholic paper each week and encourage the family to do the same, they would soon find themselves much better equipped to give intelligent answers to questions concerning our holy religion.

The learning of the world means money and position; but the Catechism is merely a passport to Holy Communion. With never a hint in its pages as to dollar-making, it has no interest for people who seldom think of eternity and who are swathed in the clothes of indifference.

THE "CHAINED" BIBLE

It happens that the four hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Luther's birth is being celebrated this year. It is our hope that we will have to read or hear no eulogy that credits him with putting the Bible into the hands of the lay people.

Those who admire Martin Luther and have adopted his religious principles give him the credit for putting the Bible in the hands of the people. According to them, Luther broke the chains which the deceptive Catholic Church had used to keep the knowledge of God's revelation from the people.

It is quite easy to seize upon a fact and so distort it that its opposite will appear to be true. Of all the facts ever distorted in this manner, one of the worst is that the Bible was chained up by Catholic authorities.

That Bibles were chained to the pulpits of the Catholic churches before the time of Martin Luther is true. That the reason for this fact was to keep them from the use of the people is a calumny that the Church has had difficulty in living down. The fact of the matter is that the Bible was chained to the pulpits so that the congregation could use it. Had it not been secured, any dishonest person could have walked off with it and the rest of the people would have suffered its loss. Bibles were scarce in those days as they had not yet been invented.

Facts that can be ascertained by anyone should have long ago destroyed this false notion. For it is the truth that from the year 1450 to 1520, the year Martin Luther was excommunicated from the Church on the charge of heresy, Catholic preachers printed one hundred and ninety-two editions of the complete Bible. The editions were in various languages including German, Latin, French, Italian, Spanish and Latin.

These were published before the year 1500 by Americans. This list of books in-

cluded Latin and vernacular editions of the Bible, nine editions of German Bibles published in France and Italy and six editions printed in Germany.

All of these editions were printed before Martin Luther had published his Bible. And from this, it is easy to conclude that the Church did not want to keep the Bible away from the people but as a matter of fact put it into their hands.

The Church has always pointed to the Bible not only for the proof of her divine foundation but for every dogma she has ever defined. Had not her monks spent years in recopying the Bible, it is safe to say Luther and the Protestant world today would not have a Bible, or at least a New Testament.

Bible-reading has always been encouraged by the Church. She has incorporated it into her liturgical services and into her official prayers. Her priests must read it every day. Her lay people are granted an indulgence for reading it.

If the Church does not fear to have the Bible read by the people today, why should she have feared it centuries ago? The fact is that such a fear never existed but was the fiction of those who held no love for her.

FAITH FOR OUR COLORED

This paper has before had occasion to voice its sentiments in favor of the Negro. However we were then thinking of his material welfare. Reading the account of a speech made by Archbishop McNicholas in which he has called for a vast increase of Catholic effort for the conversion to the Faith of the American Negro, we would heartily approve of his proposed program here in our home diocese.

Analyzing conditions here, we can agree with Archbishop McNicholas when he says that although the doors of the Church have not been closed to the colored, they have not been held open to them.

We remember no occasion here when there has been an active campaign to bring these souls into the True Fold. That there has been reasons and conditions that prevented this, is true. But that does not change the fact that "the Negro has been neglected."

The Negro has not been "aware that the Church is deeply interested in them, that it demands justice for them; that it is willing to fight their battles; that it longs to be to them a tender Mother."

If only the Negroes of our diocese could be made to see that such is the attitude of the Church toward them! Truly we could expect numerous conversions among them after the truth of Catholic dogma, the enabling strength of her principles, and the beauty of her liturgy had been expounded and explained to them.

We advocate an immediate program of prayer on the part of all our people for the Negro. Such will do much to further any future program of Catholic Action among our colored people. It will win the conversion of those who are without the consolation of the True Faith.

That the condition of our colored people would be improved by knowing the teachings of the Church cannot be questioned. That they are easily attracted by the beauties of Catholicism is the report of the missionaries who have worked among them in the South. Why can we not hope that this would be the result of missionary efforts among the colored of our diocese?

We would like to see an effort made to gain the souls of our colored for the Church. We are anxious to share the consolations of our faith with those whose position in life could be made more happy and less difficult if only they knew the beauty that is in Christ and in His Church.

THE MARTYRS' SHRINE

Three years ago there were canonized eight North American Martyrs. Near Midland, in the province of Ontario, Canada, a magnificent shrine has been erected on the spot where five of these heroic Jesuits suffered a most cruel martyrdom. The great religious and historical interest attached to this venerable spot, as well as the many spiritual and temporal favors accorded there, has made this shrine a center of interest to the people of every creed and race.

The devotion to the North American martyrs is growing fast and it is not hard to understand the reason when we consider what these intrepid missionaries had to contend with. Most of the time they slept out in the open. Food was scarce and generally unsavory. Despite the hardships and dangers of travel, they never faltered. The filthy habits of the Indians, the repulsive living conditions, made life hard for these men of God. And yet these missionaries visited the Indian huts daily in the discharge of their priestly duty. They became inured to difficulties of every kind. In the end all of them were tortured cruelly and suffered most agonizing deaths.

How seldom do we pause to reflect on the labors and sufferings of the martyrs. We shall never be called on to suffer as they did. Those of us who pamper ourselves in the ease and luxury of modern life and who resent the little disappointments we meet daily, should bear in mind the hardships and sufferings the saintly martyrs underwent. Happily is the memory of the North American martyrs revived and renewed. Pilgrims to the Martyrs' Shrine may confidently hope that Mary, the Queen of Martyrs, and her heroic sons, now ennobled by the Church, will listen to their petitions and will generously grant them what they ask for.

AAAA IN THE RED

One piece of good news in connection with the "depression" is that the American Association for the Advancement of Atheism is "in the red." The organization's latest report, which we find in the August Kablegram, says: "We have received the lowest income since the first few years of our work—and we have a large indebtedness—and unless our remaining friends stand by us generously, we shall not be able to continue the work." If the AAAA goes under, no good man will mourn at its grave.—Catholic Citizen.

Try to be unnoticed, except when called on to come forward in the cause of God and of our neighbor.—Father Clare, S. J.

Diocesan Recordings

With the fall rush of activities underway if we do not have reports in this newspaper of football referees officiating at card parties and claims being served at school functions, it will be because we have been able to steer a straight course through the multitude of notices that are pouring in on us.

Strident, excited voices booming from many radio receiving sets as this is written burst upon us the fact that the world series is underway. In their fighting with all his being is "Joe" Cronin, youthful manager of the Washington Baseball Club, the "Senators" who is known to his team-mates as "a religious guy." When his mother, Mrs. M. J. Cronin of San Francisco was informed that her son's team had won the American League pennant, her comment was, "I have been praying for his team to win." Her son is imbued with the same religious spirit, it is said. "In the early morning following the day his team clinched the American flag, the "Senators" leader went to six-thirty Mass at St. Paul's Church in Washington. Following Mass the boy-manager of the Washington team went to St. Paul's Academy to visit the Sisters who have been rooting for "Joe" and his club to win, not by raucous cheers, but by constant, quiet prayers. It is also said of Cronin that he has been observed to make the Sign of the Cross quickly in the dirt with his baseball bat before standing up to the home plate. To some this does not appeal, but we cannot see why the spirit of prayer cannot be taken into our everyday existence and in "Joe" Cronin's case, up to the time this is written, his prayers for success in his calling have been answered. The spirit of constant prayer can well be injected into every worthwhile temporal endeavor. If such prayers are not answered with temporary favors they are at least being laid up in the spiritual treasury which all of us need so much to fill.

When Miss Gwen McCormack, daughter of the peerless John Count McCormack was married to Edward Pyke recently in the London Oratory there was no sign of the irreverent element that has so often marred "Society" functions, a writer in the London Universe states. In spite of the fact that thousands found it impossible to get into the already crowded church where the premier Irish tenor sang Cesar-Franck's Paris Angellus, the deep reverence of the wedding party communicated itself to all those who watched the ceremony and assisted at the Nuptial Mass. Thus it was a truly Catholic ceremony and one in which the excellent example of the principles will have its influence upon those who witnessed it.

Heavy footsteps outside our door early this week indicated that another milestone in the progress of the diocese had been passed. These footsteps of Catholic youth entering the portals of the Niagara University, School of Business in the Columbus Civic Center should be recorded for themselves for they are entering upon a new phase of life destined to equip them for success in the business world and for the diocese, for this is the beginning of a Catholic college for men in the diocese planned to enable our Catholic boys to get collegiate training in their own diocese. With Niagara College functioning so well in the women's field, it is hoped that success will meet the efforts of the Vincentian Fathers in providing a Catholic college for men in the diocese. Proximity to the halls of learning may even return to the writer of this column some of the things taught at Notre Dame University, but that may be expecting too much.

For those interested in Catholic libraries, it is interesting to note that the library of the Catholic Unity League in New York City sent out 13,048 books, and answered 16,000 letters of inquiry during the year which has just ended. During the past year this library, according to the Rev. Bertrand L. Conway, C.S.P., was the most active loan library in the United States. The Catholic Unity League has completed sixteen years of existence and since its foundation has been instrumental in bringing 1,780 converts into the Church.

Beer has become important enough for the New York Times to publish an editorial upon the subject of "How to Drink Beer." It seems that Americans with the lesser complex insist on drinking the chilled brew which according to an educational movement now underway, the best temperature for 3.3 to be served is 45 F. While there is much concern with the health of beer-drinkers who insist on drinking it too cold, there doesn't seem to be any mention made of drinking tea much.

Unfortunates who are forced by circumstances to accept the pork being given to the needy will find it better "dressed" than they are.

Banks are reported reopening under a new credit-pumping plan. We know one individual who would like to get under such a pump.

STRANGE BUT TRUE Catholic Facts But Little Known

By M. J. MURRAY

Illustrated text block containing facts about the clock-tower of the Cathedral of Messina, the background of the altar in a new Catholic church at Strasberg, Germany, the Mercy Hospital of Chicago, and the Gate of Virtue at Cambridge.

Rosary Month

October is dedicated to the Blessed Mother under her title, Queen of the Most Holy Rosary. No other devotion save that of Our Lord in the Blessed Sacrament has such a firm hold upon the affections of all Catholics. Man's life upon earth is a blending of joy and sorrow, destined to end with a crown of glory if he be faithful to the Law of God. How apt an illustration of a soul's career, and how well calculated as a teacher and a means of grace is the Rosary with its fifteen joyful, sorrowful and glorious Mysteries, and its heaven inspired vocal prayers to accompany our meditations.

"Rosarium" is the Latin word from which we derive our word Rosary, means a garden of roses or other beautiful flowers. A flower-garden would be an ideal place, in which to rest when overcome by illness or fatigue. Sweet odors and pleasing sights would soothe the senses and help to repress the shattered nerves. In the unending struggle of life our souls are often weary of strife and mayhap sick from the effects of passion and sin. They need a restful place and a reminder of how beautiful virtue is and how sweet is the odor of sanctity. Our Lady's Rosary is the spiritual garden in which the languishing soul may renew its strength and be nourished by the contemplation of its mysteries. Therein can be found weapons with which to combat the multifarious assaults of its enemies and an antidote for its every secret malady.

Back Through the Years

(A Glimpse through the Files of the Catholic Courier and Journal)

December 8, 1894 Knights of St. Eustace elected the following officers: President, Thomas Hempel; First Vice President, V. Heinze; Second Vice President, John Zwerger; Secretary, George Gaeb; Treasurer, F. Kleinhaus; Captain, M. J. Carina; First Lieutenant, M. Voellinger; Second Lieutenant, George Noeth, Jr.; Guard, Joseph Stupp; Messenger, A. Groh; Sergeant-at-Arms, A. Bradley; Finance Committee, John DeRoller, John Diringer and George Geimer.

December 13, 1894 A box was placed in St. Mary's Church wherein questions on theology and discipline could be deposited. Questions were to be answered in the Sunday evening sermons.

December 22, 1894 Officers elected by Division No. 7, Ancient Order of Hibernians were: President, W. T. Connor; Vice President, Daniel Driscoll; Recording Secretary, W. J. Quinn; Financial Secretary, E. J. Ward; Treasurer, L. G. McGreal; Standing Committee, Charles P. Mead, Patrick Masterson, John A. McMahon, W. H. McDonald, William McGrath; Financial Committee, W. L. Peasley, Michael Meaher, W. H. Darry.

Kind Words

Kind words are the music of the world. They have a power which seems to be beyond natural cause. There is hardly a power on earth equal to them. It seems as if they could almost do what in reality God alone can do, namely, set the hard and angry hearts of men. Even quarrels have way to kind words, for an unfavorable heart is a rare monster. Words have a power of their own for good or evil. Hence it is that an unkind word ranks longer in the heart than an angry stare, nay, often longer than a blow.

Kind words are like revelations from Heaven, unravelling complicated misunderstandings, and softening the hardened convictions of years. Why, then, are we ever else but kind? Kind in words? There are some difficulties. It is hard for a clever man to be kind in his words. He has temptation—a temptation bordering on the irresistible—to say clever things, and somehow, clever things are hardly ever kind things. There is a drop ever of acid or bitter in them. And on the whole, to say clever things of others is hardly over without sin. There is something in genius which is analogous to a stink. Its sharpness, its delicacy, its pain, its poison—genius has all these things as well as the stink. A man who lays himself out to amuse is never a safe man to have for a friend; even an acquaintance. He is not a man whom any one really loves or respects. No one was ever drawn nearer to God by a sarcasm. Our Lord's words in the Gospel should be our model. Father Faber.

New Books

An article entitled "Is Sexual Abstinence Harmful?" written by Rev. Dr. Ignatius W. Cox, S. J., has been published in pamphlet form by the Paulist Press of New York City. The article, written in answer to one by H. M. Parshey, entitled "Sexual Abstinence as a Biological Problem," appeared originally in the Scientific American, which magazine previously had published the Parshey article. Dr. Cox quotes eminent non-Catholic authorities in refutation of the assertions contained in Professor Parshey's article.

St. Francis of Sales: "How happy is the soul which takes pleasure in knowing and fully knowing that God is God, and that His goodness is an infinite goodness."

The more gladly souls do the will of God the greater is their perfection.—St. Teresa.

Silence kept in a spirit of devotion brings great solace to the suffering souls.—Anon.

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